





Overview

- Definition of Black-American as defined by DOD Dir. 1350.2
- Describe the Nations of Africa
- Describe the African Society
- Explain the Slave Trade Period
- Describe the Slave Culture
- Define Slavery and the Economy
- Define the Black-American Culture
- Describe Black-Contemporary Issues



Black-American Experience

Definition

 Black (not of Hispanic origin) as define in DOD Dir. 13 50.2 is a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Africa

Nations of Africa

 Early nations and Kingdoms include: Ghana, the first great empire (650AD-1200AD, Mali overthrew Ghana in 1235, Songhay captured Mali in 1469AD



African Society

- The Traditional African family was composed of the following:
 - All members of the community
 - In the extended family community members were viewed as family
 - The traditional family included not only the deceased but the unborn in the womb
 - The family recognized and accepted the belief that their existence depend on all family members living or deceased.
 - The eldest male is head of the family
 - Early Africa was a mixture of tribes, each had distinct language, and social structure

African Society

- Family Roles:
 - Men-providers, educators, and disciplinarians
 - Women- responsible for social functions, children, the market, taking care of other children in the community
 - Children- belonged solely to the family, birth extremely important, parents believed they were reborn through their children
- African Class System (Clans)
 - Top Tier- born of free men
 - Middle Tier- mostly workers no proof of belonging in the clan
 - Bottom Tier- composed of the disgraced or degraded, slaves or POW's



Slave Trade Period

- Dutch warship brought the first 20 Africans to Virginia they were sold for needed supplies
- Approximately 7 million slaves made the journey in the 17th century (1 out of 5 died)
- Why Slavery?
 - Viewed as savages, animals, different, therefore less than human.
 - Blacks had a different lifestyle, color, culture and language
 - New nation required a stable work force
 - World business, isolation, different language, broke them down to adaptive superiority in order to survive



Why Slavery Worked

- Lack of knowledge the Africans knew nothing of the land, food, and weather
- The slaves were made powerless, which allowed slavery to work
- Used Black slaves versus Native-Americans they could run away



Role of the Slave Family

- Marriage no legal standing but lasted for decades, (jumped the broom)
- Owners found marriage a stabilizing force
- Head of household changed from the man to the women, fathers were often sold
- Father viewed as a breeder, not able to choose mate
- Mother Transmitter of African history and culture
- Children considered "ebony" or "black gold"

Social Status

- Dependent on:
 - Free or slave- some Africans came to the new world free with Columbus
 - Owner of the slave-owners position was very important, the more slaves one owned the higher the status
 - Field worker, housework, laborer, artisan- status depended on where they worked
 - Male-Female
 - Complexion (dark vs. light) Light skinned work in housework, dark skinned in the field



Music and Language

MUSIC

- Music is and has been an important element of the African-American culture
- Couldn't use drums because they'd send messages and start an uprising
- Overheard the white church goers, changed the rhythm, rewrote the words to fit their dialect and to show their feelings

LANGUAGE

- Communication with new slaves forbidden
- Expected to communicate with owner and show them respect, regardless of time in captivity
- 800 different dialects



Religion

- Slaves were slow to give up own religion, wanted to maintain tradition
- Church afforded a brief rest period and secondary gains
- Services given by White preachers < Black preachers could only preach in front of masters who controlled sermon
- Three types of churches, White with Black members, Black churches with White leadership, Black churches with Black leadership

Development of the Black Church in America

- Blacks knew as long as they remained in White churches conditions would remain the same due to the following conditions:
 - Lack of self-help programs for the Blacks
 - Non-participation in church activities
 - Absence of Blacks in leadership roles
 - Doctrine that did not serve the needs of the Black's



Impact of Slavery on the Economy

- Cheap labor force
- Slavery enhanced the status of owner through profit, prestige, depending on number owned
- Myths and stereotypes were used to justify the exploitation of Blacks
 - Ignorant, lazy, incapable of competing, and inferior in intelligence
 - Less than human
 - Natural station in life of Blacks was slavery



Slavery and the Economy

- Early laws during slavery and their impact on Black Americans
- Emancipation Proclamation
- Reconstruction Period (1870-1877)



Black American Culture

- Source for Black Culture
- Black-American Family
- Customs and Traditions
- Dynamics of Black-American Culture
- Religion
- Laws and Black-America, 1877 to present
- Civil Rights Movement



Black Contemporary Issues

- Education
- Employment
- Political Power
- Black on Black Crime
- EO Impact in the military
- EO in the military



Military Participation

- Colonial Period
- Revolutionary War
- Post-Revolutionary War
- Civil War
- Indian Campaigns
- Spanish-American War

- World War I
- World War II
- Post World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam era to present



Summary

- Definition of Black-American as defined by DOD Dir. 1350.2
- Described the Nations of Africa
- Described the African Society
- Explained the Slave Trade Period
- Described the Slave Culture
- Defined Slavery and the Economy
- Defined the Black-American Culture
- Discussed Black-Contemporary Issues

